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SENATOR CHAMBERS: So we could cut all aid to municipalities and counties if we chose, couldn't we?

SENATOR RAIKES: Again, I think that's correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And could we cut aid to public schools by 50 percent without violating the constitution?

SENATOR RAIKES: I'm sure that the answer would depend on who you asked that question but, at least, technically I don't think that there is a particular funding level mentioned in the constitution. So from that standpoint, yes, that's possible.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: We can cut aid to the university system by 50 percent if we chose, couldn't we?

SENATOR RAIKES: Again, that would be a possibility I imagine.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If there are various agencies which are partially funded by cash funds, if we took all of them...could we take all of the money from their cash funds if we enacted legislation authorizing the Legislature to do that?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes, I think so.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And that would be some deep cutting wherever we were so heavy-handed, if we did it in that fashion, would you agree?

SENATOR RAIKES: I would.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If we, on the other hand, were going to try to close that gap by raising the income tax, would there have to be a relatively steep increase in the income tax to do that?

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, I would say, yes; for that amount of money, it would have to be a substantial increase.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It might be best...let me strike that. Do you think a matter of this magnitude and seriousness merits very deliberative, mature discussion?